

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03  
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00  
NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /058 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3443  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 16152

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: NATO, FR, MILI  
SUBJECT: FRENCH COOPERATION WITH THE NATO LONG TERM  
PROGRAM AND IN THE TWO-WAY STREET WITH THE U.S.

1. ON 1 JUNE GEN BOWMAN (DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AND  
NATO AFFAIRS, ISA) MET WITH GENERAL MARTRE, DELEGATE  
GENERAL FOR ARMAMENTS, AND GENERAL CAUCHIE, DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION,  
DELEGATION GENERAL FOR ARMAMENTS, TO DISCUSS THE ABOVE  
SUBJECTS. GENERAL MARTRE INDICATED THAT THE FRENCH  
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD NOTIFIED HIM OF THE GENERAL  
SUBJECT BUT THAT HE HAD VERY LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF THE  
NATO INITIATIVES. HE INDICATED SOME FEAR THAT FRANCE  
MIGHT BE LET OUT OF AREAS IN WHICH IT HAS AN INTEREST.  
GEN BOWMAN OUTLINED CURRENT THINKING ON THE VARIOUS  
LONG TERM PROGRAM PROJECTS AND SAID THAT WE HOPED THAT  
FRANCE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK TO WHATEVER DEGREE  
IT WISHED TO DO SO.

2. GEN MARTRE SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT THE DPC WOULD  
NOT CHOOSE TO DUPLICATE THE WORK BEING DONE ON THE  
"PERIODIC ARMAMENTS PLANNING SYSTEM (PAPS)" BY THE  
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CNAD SINCE FRANCE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN  
COOPERATING IN THAT AREA AS IN THE PAST. GEN BOWMAN  
AGREED THAT HE HOPED THAT THE PAPS WORK WOULD MOVE  
AHEAD QUICKLY UNDER THE CNAD AND WOULD THUS PROVIDE  
THE CENTER PIECE FOR THE LONG TERM PROGRAM ON STANDARD-  
IZATION OF ARMAMENTS. HE ALSO MENTIONED THE IMPORTANCE  
OF AC 94 WORK ON LICENSING IN THAT CONNECTION. GEN

MARTRE SAID THAT THE AC 94 WORK (IN WHICH FRANCE PARTICIPATES) IS VERY IMPORTANT TO PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR GREATER LICENSING OF COMMON EQUIPMENT DESIGNS. HE AGREED THAT AC 94 SHOULD BE AUGMENTED WITH INNOVATIVE PERSONNEL WHO CAN COME UP WITH NEW POLICIES TO SOLVE SOME VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SUCH AS PROVISIONS FOR THIRD COUNTRY SALES. GEN BOWMAN SAID THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT IN SOME AREAS SUCH AS STANDARDIZATION WHERE MAJOR PROJECTS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY, NEW LONG TERM PROGRAM WORK BY THE DPC COULD BE HELD OFF UNTIL IT WAS CLEAR WHICH AREAS FRANCE WOULD NOT OR COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN. THUS FRANCE WILL BE FULLY INVOLVED IN THE PRINCIPLE AREAS OF STANDARDIZATION WITH THE DPC FILLING IN PERIPHERAL AREAS SUCH AS POSSIBLY STANDARDIZATION OF TRAINING.

3. GEN MARTRE STATED THAT FRANCE ALSO HAS A STRONG INTEREST IN THE LONG TERM PROGRAMS FOR AIR DEFENSE, ELECTRONIC /WARFARE AND COMMAND CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS. HE WONDERED WHETHER THESE WORKING GROUPS MIGHT BE FORMED UNDER THE CNAD WITH INPUTS FROM THE NATO MILITARY COMMANDERS RATHER THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND, SO THAT FRANCE PARTICIPATION COULD BE ASSURED. MR. MONNIER, ASST TO GEN CAUCHIE, ALSO SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF FORMING AD HOC WORKING GROUPS REPORTING TO THE COUNCIL AS IN THE CASE OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON INTEROPERABILITY. GEN MARTRE AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE A DPC WORKING GROUP UNDER THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES HANDLING THE "FORCES" PORTION OF THE LONG

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TERM PROGRAM, WITH A CNAD WORKING GROUP CONTRIBUTING THE EQUIPMENT PORTION OF THE PROGRAM. BUT HE SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE LESS PREFERABLE TO HIM THAN HAVING THE WORKING GROUP LISTED AS A CNAD GROUP WITH MILITARY INPUTS.

4. IT WAS CLEAR FROM THIS DISCUSSION THAT WHILE GEN MARTRE STRONGLY WISHED TO PARTICIPATE IN 4 GROUPS OVER THE 9 LONG TERM PROGRAM AREAS, HE HAD NOT CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT HOW TO GO ABOUT IT AND ALMOST CERTAINLY HAD NOT SOUGHT ANY CLEARANCE FROM THE QUAI ON HIS IDEAS. SINCE THE DPC MAY MAKE SOME DECISIONS ON THIS SUBJECT TOMORROW, WASHINGTON MIGHT CONSIDER GOING AHEAD WITH CURRENT PLANS FOR ASSIGNING THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE 3 WORKING GROUPS DISCUSSED IN PARA 3 TO THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES BUT WITH THE PROVISION THAT IF FRANCE AGREES TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 16152

OF THOSE 3 GROUPS THAN THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE OVERALL WORKING GROUP WOULD BE APPOINTED BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL WHO WOULD THEN REPORT TO BOTH THE CNAD AS THE PRINCIPLE CHANNEL AND TO THE EWG FOR PURPOSES OF THE LONG TERM PROGRAM. IN OTHER WORDS, THE FICTION OF CNAD CONTROL WOULD BE PRESERVED, THUS PERMITTING FRENCH PARTICIPATION EVEN THOUGH THE MAIN ACTION WOULD REMAIN WITH EWG. MOREOVER, IF THE FRENCH WERE TO RESTRICT THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE STUDY, THE EWG COULD OF COURSE EXTEND THE WORK WITH A WORKING GROUP OF ITS OWN. IN ADDITION, THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO GO AHEAD WITH THEIR OWN WORKING GROUP TO ENSURE INPUTS ON THE VITAL QUESTIONS OF FORCE LEVELS AND NATO COMMAND STRUCTURE -- SUBJECTS WHICH THE FRENCH WOULD NOT CLEARLY PARTICIPATE IN.

5. ON THE QUESTION OF THE TWO-WAY STREET, GEN MARTRE SAID THAT FRANCE WAS VERY INTERESTED IN THE STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT CARTER AT THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN LONDON. HE AGREED THAT THE IEPG COULD SERVE AN IMPORTANT FUNCTION IN IMPROVING  
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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EUROPE UNDER THE FRAMEWORK ESTABLISHED BY PAPS STUDY. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT WE COULD NOT EXPECT QUICK ACTION FROM THE IEPG AND THEREFORE HE FELT THAT THE BILATERAL ARMAMENTS COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHICH THE TWO DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS HAVE BEEN WORKING ON SHOULD PROVIDE A USEFUL VEHICLE FOR IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENTS IN COOPERATION. HE ASKED WHEN THE U.S. WOULD BE PROVIDING ITS FINAL CHANGES TO THE DRAFT AGREEMENT. GEN BOWMAN STATED THAT OSD HAD RECEIVED FROM STATE DEPT CLEARANCE ON THE CURRENT TEXT AND WAS READY TO CONSIDER ANY FINAL CHANGES FROM FRANCE. GEN MARTRE SAID THAT THEY HAD MISINTERPRETED THE LAST LETTER FROM WASHINGTON TO MEAN THAT THE U.S. STILL HAD FURTHER WORK TO DO. IN ANY CASE, HE IS STILL WAITING FOR CLEARANCE FROM THE QUAI WHICH HE HOPED TO HAVE IN TIME FOR HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN MID-JUNE. WHEN ASKED AT WHAT LEVEL FRANCE WISHED TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT, GEN MARTRE SUGGESTED THAT DR PERRY AND HE MIGHT BE THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL; HOWEVER, HE INTENDED TO PUT THE QUESTION TO MINISTER BOURGES.

6. WITH RESPECT TO AWACS, MR. MONNIER STATED THAT FRANCE HAS A STUDY COMMITTEE EXAMINING ALL ALTERNATIVES IN LIGHT OF THE BRITISH NIMROD DECISION AND SHOULD REPORT TO MINISTER BOURGES BY THE END OF THE MONTH. THEY ARE CONSIDERING EVERYTHING FROM IMPROVED GROUND RADARS TO THE USE OF THE AIRBUS TO THE FRENCH PURCHASE OF SEVERAL AWACS THAT WOULD BE TIED IN WITH THE NATO SYSTEM. THE GREATEST PROBLEM IS THE DIFFICULTY OF FINDING NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS.

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